

Surau vandalism strongly condemned by leaders
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KUALA LUMPUR - MCA and DAP have condemned the surau vandalism incident that happened Monday morning which saw red paint splashed over the religious place.

DAP veteran Lim Kit Siang, in a twitter post, has urged Malaysians to protest against the vandalism incident while MCA warned not to fall into the "trap" of those who intend to incite fear and racial hatred.

A surau in Taman Pulau Impian Temiang near Seremban was splashed with red paint and broken pieces of liquor bottles were found on the scene, reported The Star.

Health Minister Liow Tiong Lai has also tweeted saying it is an act of "cowardice and ignorance" to smear a place of worship and it is unacceptable in any way.

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng has responded to the incident, saying that the "treachery act" is not to be accepted in a civilised society and constitutional democracy.

The DAP Secretary-General was quoted in a news website as saying, "Perhaps the culprits feel that this provocative act would be more effective during the month of Ramadan."

MCA Central Committee member, Loh Seng Kok, said Malaysians must remain calm and not allow emotions to blind rationality in handling such serious matter.

"Malaysians will know better than to fall into the trap of these troublemakers who only want to pit Malaysians of different faiths against each other by sowing hatred, fear and distrust and desiring revenge to enable counter reprisals," he said in the press statement Monday.

The Chinese-based party strongly condemned the "heinous misdeed" and said the ulterior motive of the culprits is still unknown but hope it remains as an isolated case.

Loh said the citizenship of those responsible spraying the red paint must be stripped off as the attack has violated the basic tenets of Rukunegara.

As deputy chairman of MCA Publicity Bureau, Loh applauded Malaysians irrespective of religion who have shown unity earlier in January when holy houses of different religions on the Peninsular, Sarawak and convent in Taiping were attacked.

"This clearly indicated that normal Malaysians reject any form of attacks against religious places and will not be cowed into fear by miscreants out to spark national upheaval," he said.

Mohd Hasbi Ismail, committee chairman of the surau, who discovered the incident had lodged a police report.

He said the right side of the front wall, floor and glass door were splashed with red paint while broken pieces of four liquor bottles were found in front of the surau.

Mohamad Zaki Masroh, director of the state's criminal investigation department, reportedly said police have no suspects or any leads of motives behind the act yet but the public are asked to remain calm while they conduct a thorough investigation.

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